

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-10 SAB-01 OMB-01

CIEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /072 W

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P R 061557Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2131

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, SY, US, IS

SUBJ: SYRIAN PRESS CONTINUES ATTACK ON US AND ISRAELI POLICY
IN ME

1. SUMMARY: US CONTINUES TO BE TARGET HEAVY FLACK IN

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DAMASCUS PRESS. PREDOMINANT THEMES ARE: (1) SYRIA

REJECTS US STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH BECAUSE IT IS ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE ARABS AND EVADE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTIONS. (2) RENEWAL OF UNDOF IS LINKED TO FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTION INCLUDING GENEVA CONFERENCE, AND US IS TRYING BLOCK MOVEMENT IN THAT DIRECTION. (3) US IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE PARTIAL TO ISRAEL. (4) US POSITION IN ME IS NOT AS STRONG AS US CONTENDS.

2. PAST TWO DAYS POLITICAL COMMENTARIES IN LOCAL PRESS (AND UNQUESTIONABLY CLEARED BY SARG) HAVE MAINTAINED DRUM ROLE OF ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US, EMPHASIZING AS BASIC SYRIAN POSITION THAT SYRIA REJECTS ALL PARTIAL STEP-BY-STEP APPROACHES. US AND ISRAEL ARE CHARGED WITH JOINTLY ATTEMPTING DIVIDE ARABS BY TEMPTING EGYPT WITH ANOTHER WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI. CONSISTENT WITH THIS POSITION, NEWSPAPERS SCOFF AT RABIN'S OFFER OF FURTHER PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL ON GOLAN AND NOTE THAT IN CASES BOTH SINAI AND GOLAN RABIN REJECTS POSSIBILITY OF TOTAL WITHDRAWAL. RELATED CHARGE IS THAT US STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH IS REALLY ATTEMPT TO DISTORT AND REWRITE SC RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF ISRAEL. WRITERS REPEAT THAT US IS EXPLOITING THOSE PORTIONS OF RESOLUTIONS IT FAVORS (BY IMPLICATION THOSE THAT FAVOR ISRAEL SUCH AS SECURE BORDERS) WHILE IGNORING OTHERS SUCH AS FULL IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH GENEVA CONFERENCE (WHICH, AGAIN BY IMPLICATION, FAVOR THE ARABS). IN REVEALING REFERENCE TO ROLE OF MAJOR POWERS, ONE ARTICLE NOTES THAT CONTINUATION OF STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH ABETS ISRAEL BY GIVING HER ALLY, AMERICA, PROMINENT ROLE WHILE AT SAME TIME DENYING ROLE TO ANY ALLY OF ARABS.

3. SECOND THEME IS ASSERTION THAT RENEWAL OF UNDOF WAS LINKED TO FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTIONS. ARTICLES POINT OUT THAT RESOLUTIONS CALL FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY AND RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. PRESS DESCRIBES SYRIA AS PREPARED TO WORK FOR PEACE WITHIN SC RESOLUTIONS, BUT ASSERTS IF OTHERS REFUSE TO HEED THIS CALL FOR PEACE OR TRY TO EVADE FULL IMPLEMENTATION, THEN SYRIA IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREPARED TO SPEAK WITH "THE VOICE OF GOLAN AND HERMAN." AFTER NOTING CONTINUED GOI REFUSAL OF PRINCIPLE OF FULL WITHDRAWAL OR TO DEAL WITH PLO, ARTICLES STRESS ADDITIONAL ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF SC RESOLUTIONS IS GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THAT US EFFORTS TO DELAY ITS CONVENING (AND ISRAELI REFUSAL TO ATTEND) ARE FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT ISRAEL AND US HAVE NO INTENTION TO SEE THE SC RESOLUTIONS FULLY IMPLEMENTED.

4. NEW PRESS THEME IN PAST THREE DAYS IS FLAT STATEMENT THAT US ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE "COMPLETELY PARTIAL TO ISRAEL." EXAMPLES OF SUCH ACTIONS PARTIALITY LISTED AS: (1) PRESIDENT FORD'S CALL FOR CONTINUATION OF STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, AS "US ATTEMPTS DIVIDE ARABS",

(2) SENATE VOTE TO RESTRICT FUNDS TO UNESCO, (3) ALLEGED CONGRESSIONAL CUTS IN AID TO UN (PRESUMABLY AS RESULT OF PLO VOTES), AND (4) PASSAGE OF NEW AID BILL WITH \$636 MILLION AID PACKAGE (\$439 MILLION AS GRANT AID) FOR ISRAEL. NEWSPAPERS CARRY SEVERAL ARTICLES ABOUT ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITY AND NOTE THAT SOURCE OF THIS CAPABILITY IS US. ARTICLE DECEMBER 6 PRINTS REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE THAT TO ACCEPT "AMERICAN PEACE" AMOUNTS TO ACCEPTING "AMERICAN DOMINATION" FOR 10 TO 15 YEARS. IN SHORT, ARABS MUST BE ON GUARD VIS-A-VIS US DOMINATED PEACE EFFORT.

5. ANOTHER POINT CITED, IF NOT FULLY DEVELOPED IN PRESS, IS THAT US IN FACT IN WEAK POSITION IN ME. DECEMBER 6 ARTICLE QUOTES UNOFFICIAL SOURCES IN WASHINGTON AS SAYING PRESIDENT FORD WILL ASK CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT FOR WEST GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN ME. PAPER CONCLUDED THIS, IN ADDITION TO BEING ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF US PARTIALITY TO ISRAEL (UNEXPLAINED) IS PROOF US "LOSING ABILITY" TO PULL OFF SINGLE HANDEDLY CONCRETE EFFORTS FOR MAINTAINING PEACE IN ME. OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT US WEAKNESS IN AREA HAVE BEEN IMPLIED THROUGH CITATION OF ARAB ABILITY TO REAPPLY OIL WEAPON AND OBSERVATIONS OF TOTAL ISOLATION OF US AS SOLE ALLY OF ISRAEL.

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6. COMMENT: ABOVE POINTS HAVE ALL APPEARED DURING PAST TWO DAYS IN SARG-CONTROLLED PRESS. THAT THEY WERE SANCTIONED BY GOVERNMENT IS FOREGONE CONCLUSION. THEY REFLECT WHAT IS PERHAPS SARG'S BASIC CONCERN: THAT SYRIA WILL BE LEFT BEHIND OR ALTOGETHER OUT OF THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLICIES, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC02911
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740354-1000
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741255/aaaabvem.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN PRESS CONTINUES ATTACK ON US AND ISRAELI POLICY IN ME
TAGS: SOPN, SY, IS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005